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# NRO DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE

16 October 1968

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Comptroller, Office of Special Activities

SUBJECT: IDEALIST Program Continuation

1. During the Bureau of the Budget (BOB) discussions in the Fall of 1966 and the Fall of 1967 they mentioned that they had planned to scrutinize the IDEALIST costs and to evaluate these costs against the resultant take and to further compare this project to other Government projects.

2. History has proven that when the BOB makes a statement of this type, they will follow through and there are indications that this is proven to be true.

3. A similar statement was made concerning the OXCART Program and we are all familiar with the demise of the Program.

25X1A

4. Recently there have been four documents that indicate that this inquest is continuing, [REDACTED] and a message from John Bross to DDS&T).

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5. The BOB has contacted [REDACTED] and asked him for backup costs for the IDEALIST Program.

25X1A

6. The BOB has also suggested to Doctor Flax that he discontinue the IDEALIST Program and utilize the aircraft in the Air Force inventory. Doctor Flax is not taking his Q's from the BOB but has stated that the ExCom has directed him to manage the Reconnaissance Program of which the IDEALIST is an integral part.

SECRET

SECRET

Page 2

7. The latest indication is the comparison of the operational hours for the IDEALIST [REDACTED] and this, of course, will put us in a very bad light.

25X1A

8. It is the suggestion of the undersigned that a Senior Officer of OSA be assigned the project of completely evaluating the impact of the recent messages on this subject, preparing complete background information on the action, requirement and capabilities of the IDEALIST Program to satisfy the NRP and to have this material in graphic form for verbal presentation to Mr. Duckett and Mr. Helms in the immediate future. It is the opinion of the undersigned that a piece of paper full of statistics and trivia is not sufficient to educate the senior hierarchy of CIA as to the actual eminent loss of the IDEALIST Program. The two gentlemen mentioned are the only ones that will be present during the discussion of this project at the ExCom meeting in November.

25X1A

10. I would suggest that the Comptroller have a representative on the committee that will be formed to delve into the background of the problem.

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